

Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR (VINOKUROV, E. M.)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INVITATION BY UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS TO SOVIET
POET VINOKUROV

1. GERALD MIKKELSON, MEMBER OF UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SLAVIC LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT, AND CURRENTLY RESIDENT DIRECTOR CIEE LANGUAGE PROGRAM IN LENINGRAD, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PLANS TO INVITE SOVIET POET EVGENIY MIKOLOVICH VINOKUROV TO LECTURE FOR THREE WEEKS ON CONTEMPORARY SOVIET POETRY THIS COMING OCTOBER. MIKKELSON SAID PROJECT FIRST MENTIONED SOME YEARS AGO BUT WAS DELAYED LARGELY BECAUSE OF INTERVENING POOR HEALTH OF VINOKUROV. HOWEVER, MIKKELSON, WHO HAS JUST BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BOTH VINOKUROV AND UNION OF WRITERS IN MOSCOW, SAYS THAT UNION HAS ALREADY WRITTEN TRIP INTO ITS PLAN AND INTENDS TO SEND ALONG WITH VINOKUROV A CRITIC AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION'S INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH NO NAMES FOR OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF PARTY HAVE BEEN MENTIONED, MIKKELSON SAID VINOKUROV FAVORED BRINGING CRITIC E. U. SIDROV WHO TEACHES SOVIET LITERATURE OF THE 1960'S AND 70'S AT THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND WHO IS REGARDED AS AVANT GARDE CRITIC. MIKKELSON SAID THAT HE GOT IMPRESSION THAT UNION REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT BE V.S. KOTKIN WHO IS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNION'S FOREIGN COMMISSION AND WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY. BOTH EXTRA MEMBERS OF DELEGATION
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WOULD ALSO APPARENTLY GIVE SOME LECTURES AND MIKKELSON NOTED

THAT UNION REPRESENTATIVE WOULD TALK ABOUT AMERICAN LITERATURE
IN TRANSLATION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND POSSIBLY ABOUT SOVIET
LITERATURE TRANSLATED IN THE US.

2. MIKKELSON SAID UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HAD ORIGINALLY
WISHED INVITE VINOKUROV AND WELL KNOWN UKRANIAN POET VITALY
OLEXEYVICH KOROTICH. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT MENTION OF NAME
KOROTICH AT UNION PRODUCED "VISCERAL NEGATIVE REACTION" AND
UNION EACH TIME ASKS IF UNIVERSITY WOULDN'T RATHER HAVE
SOMEONE PROPOSED BY UNION. CONSEQUENTLY, FOR SAKE OF INSURING
SUCCESS OF VINOKUROV TRIP, KANSAS HAS SEPARATED TWO NAMES AND
WILL TREAT EACH POET AS SEPARATE ISSUE.

3. MIKKELSON SAID THAT HEAD OF KANSAS SLAVIC LANGUAGE
DEPARTMENT JOSEPH CONRAD WILL ISSUE OFFICIAL LETTER OF IN-
VITATION SHORTLY TO VINOKUROV BUT THAT IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE
HAS BEEN TOLD BY UNION THIS IS NOW JUST NECESSARY FORMALITY.
STOESSSEL

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